

Rev. J. A. Stephan

March 18th, 1888

Dear Miss Kate,

I received your dear and expected letter of the 13 just yesterday and also the plans and specifications. Bishop Marty fell and broke his arm. He requested me by telegrams & letter to come to see him. I left therefore Chicago for Yankton Thursday evening last, intending to return here by Monday for business, but go only 70 miles out, when a severe shock of rheumatism disabled to proceed any farther, and after a days rest I returned to Chicago. I feel better now! The whole trouble was caused by overwork. I had to see to everything: contract for St. Joseph's, buying farming implements and household goods for Rev. Justz S.J. who was very slow and wanted to see to little things as buying goats, sheep, chickens, etc., instead of going ahead to the most urgent business; and when I left Chicago I was sweating, weak, and exhausted. Now to your inquiries: 1. The deaf & dumb boy is all right.

2. I have ordered made at once a wooden cross & stone pedestal for the grave of Sister Wilhemina O.S.B. to be shipped to Highmore as soon as the body arrives from New York. The freight rates are down to nearly nothing on account of the R.R. fights in cutting rates.

3. No plans were sent to Very Rev. Ignace O.S.B. for Purcell only what Rev. Willard left him last year. Let him send an estimate and then we will instruct him and substitute the proper plan you spoke of.

4. Please let Mr. Burns make out his estimate and specification for a brick building at St. Joseph's and a stone basement 8 feet high, which will answer for cellars, wash houses, laundry, etc. and give us a great deal of additional room without much cost. The stones we can get within 4 miles of the place; No. one sandstone. The whole building in brick and stone basement will not exceed the cost of \$18,000 complete. The contractor will give us the best of security for the punctual fulfillment of his contract. Mr. Burns should especially calculate about the thickness of the brick and stone walls. The frost does not go deeper than at Philadelphia. This is the basis of his calculations.

5. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the Holy Communion you promised to offer up for me on St. Joseph's day. I shall offer my mass for your dear Uncle Joe on his journey, home! Something urges me to hurry back; what it is, I do not know yet. I will do so as soon as possible and at once call on you.

Please remember me to your good Sisters and believe me to be, very gratefully Yours in the
Sacred Hearts of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph,

J. A. Stephan